

Today, I reluctantly vote against this energy package because it fails to provide any offsets to pay for its provisions. This is a particularly difficult vote for me because this bill contains a proposal I authored and many other good provisions.

In an effort to honor our commitments to ensure financial responsibility, I will adhere to the levels in the budget resolution enacted by a majority of this Congress. I will oppose any efforts that reduce revenues without offsets.

The expenditures contained in H.R. 4 are not accounted for in the budget resolution and, despite sound energy policy this bill promotes, it busts the budget and threatens the Social Security and Medicare Trust funds. I urge my colleagues to honor their commitment to preserve this country's fiscal integrity; I urge my colleagues to either find a way to pay for these tax cuts or to vote no on H.R. 4.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Chairman, I rise to remind my colleagues of a critical provision of H.R. 4, the Securing America's Future Energy Act, which passed this House yesterday. The provision authorizes critical funds for our nation's nuclear engineering education programs, and is identical to a bill introduced by Congresswoman Judy Biggert.

For over 50 years, the United States has been the leader in nuclear science and engineering. However, the energy crisis in California has awakened our nation to energy supply constraints. Nuclear power accounts for 20% of our energy supply and is the key to solving our energy supply needs.

This bill authorizes \$240 million over five years for university nuclear science and engineering programs at the Department of Energy.

The supply of bachelor degree nuclear scientists and engineers is at a 35 year low, and the number of universities offering nuclear engineering degrees is half of what it was 20 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, the provision we passed yesterday is a critical foundation for tomorrow's energy supply.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill. (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 4, otherwise known as the Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE) bill, is anything but safe for rural America. This legislation, which was originally designed to encourage energy conservation, energy reliability and energy production, leaves rural America behind and in a cloud of dust. Proving once again that the majority is more intent upon rewarding campaign contributors than in addressing the needs of consumers in rural America.

This legislation, Mr. Chairman, while initially well-intentioned, does not take into account the unique differences that America's rural communities face in an ever-changing electricity environment. Much of rural America is served by not-for-profit rural electric cooperatives, cooperatives that are not in the business of making money, but serving their consumers. These cooperatives do not seek out to price-gouge, but rather they seek to provide reliable and affordable electricity to their consumers in an efficient manner. The bill we are considering will allow investor-owned electric companies that are currently reaping record profits to receive \$33 billion in tax breaks for huge companies to spend overseas!

Mr. Chairman, when this body considers industry-specific legislation, it should consider all the unique aspects of the particular industry. Indeed, sound public policy is advanced when the differences between the sectors are taken into account. One important area that this Congress must study more carefully are the differences between the needs of rural America and urban and suburban America. This legislation does not meet this test.

H.R. 4 prevents rural electric cooperatives from participating in the new competitive marketplace. For all our talk about a level-playing field and a competitive marketplace, we fail to foster such a thing by excluding rural electric cooperatives from the same benefits that we provide to investor-owned utilities. It is critical that we provide a level playing field for all sectors of the electric utility industry—municipals, investor owned, and cooperatives—when considering public policy.

Bypassing this legislation, we are in essence saying that one sector of the industry should be favored over another. We are also saying that the electric needs of rural America and American farmers are less important than our population centers. The SAFE bill provides investor-owned utilities with billions of dollars worth of capital gains relief that comes at the expense of higher electricity rates to consumers.

The Congress needs to reconsider this poor public policy legislation and come back after the August recess to address these inequities and finally consider legislation that is good for all of America, urban and rural.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Chairman, as the House considers H.R. 4, the Saving America's Future Energy Act, I rise to express my concern about an amendment offered by my colleagues from California to exempt their state from the oxygenate requirement of the Clean Air Act.

In 1990, Congress approved the Clean Air Act Amendments to require that gasoline sold in certain areas of the country, including California, contain at least 2 percent oxygen, "Reformulated Gasoline," which can be derived from adding an oxygenate to gasoline. The goal of the oxygenate requirement is to lower pollution in areas of the country that have the highest levels of air pollution.

There are two main substances that are used to meet the oxygenate requirement: Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) and ethanol, a fuel derived from corn. Following the 1990 law, the Chicago and Milwaukee reformulated gasoline areas chose to use ethanol and, to my knowledge, have not reported any problems with groundwater contamination, but have reported significant improvements in their air quality. Meanwhile, many of the reformulated gasoline areas in California, the Northeast, and several other areas of the country, chose to use MTBE. These areas are now reporting that about 80 percent of their drinking water contains MTBE, which does not biodegrade and which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified as a potential human carcinogen.

For the last few years, California and other parts of the country have sought to solve the problem of MTBE groundwater contamination by removing the oxygenate requirement altogether. In fact, the State of California has petitioned both the Clinton administration and the Bush administration to grant a waiver to exempt the entire State from the oxygenate requirement. On June 12, the President opted to deny this request citing that the EPA has determined, time and again, that the addition of oxygen to gasoline improves air quality by improving fuel combustion and displacing more toxic gasoline components.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the only prudent way to address this problem correctly is to replace MTBE in the United States with ethanol. Indeed, the transition for ethanol to reach California drivers is expected to be neither long nor difficult. It is my understanding that California will need 600 million gallons of ethanol annually to replace MTBE. Ethanol producers currently have the capacity to supply 2 billion gallons per year. This year alone, ethanol producers have already begun the process of shipping 150 million gallons to the State, cost-effectively and with no transportation impediments. In fact, letters delivered to California on

behalf of railroads, barge operators, ocean-going ships, and California gasoline terminals assure that ample shipping and storage capacity exists today to move ethanol from the Midwest to California markets.

I agree with my colleagues that MTBE is a danger to public health. That is why earlier this year I introduced legislation that protects the environment and public safety by totally and immediately banning the use of MTBE as a fuel additive across the United States. The Clean Air Act has done a good job in curbing dangerous emissions, and a key part of this success has been the oxygenate requirement. For the sake of keeping the air clean in California and across the United States, we cannot allow this requirement to be scaled back or waived. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote against the Cox amendment.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4, the Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001. This bill grants expensive new subsidies to virtually every energy sector without offsets and does little to promote much cheaper energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. This bill will cost \$34 billion and because no offsets are provided it will threaten the Medicare and Social Security trust funds.

This bill does nothing to relieve the suffering of the citizens of California. California's crisis is a precursor of what is to come for the rest of America as we fail to produce an energy policy which is balanced. California consumers paid \$7 billion for electricity in 1999. In 2000, that number went up to record highs and Californians paid \$27 billion for electricity. It is expected that the number could go up to \$70 billion in 2001. I am concerned that minority business owners in my district will suffer greatly due to the high costs of energy.

I am dismayed that this bill will do nothing to stop the outrageous price gouging by out-of-state energy producers to California consumers. In fact, the administration and my Republican colleagues are unwilling to carry out its obligation to ensure that energy prices are just and reasonable, claiming that uncontrolled market prices are needed in order to increase the energy supply. That's like saying that we must pay dairy farmers \$300/gallon to produce milk.

This bill will not provide one more kilowatt to California this summer, prevent one less minute of blackouts, or keep one less dollar from being transferred from California into the hands of the energy producers.

I am concerned about the environmental ramifications of this energy bill. We must look into renewable energy programs, rather than

reverse a decade old U.S. policy against reprocessing commercial nuclear fuel and allow for new drilling on public lands without royalty payments. This bill fails to guarantee a significant increase in clean, renewable energy or energy efficient products. For example, the bill fails to require significant improvement in the efficiency of air conditioners, and fails to address peak power demands of other major appliances.

Moreover, we must amend this bill because it would allow for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Instead, we must utilize current American sources that are already open for drilling. After 6 years of energy inaction on behalf of the Republican Congress, this bill follows the same old path: cast blame, insist on extreme antienvironmental proposals, and declare themselves powerless in offering relief to Americans facing record-breaking energy price increases.

I believe in a balanced, comprehensive and cost-efficient energy program that meets America's energy needs through increased production and efficiency that puts the interests of consumers first and protects the environment. This omnibus energy package does little to address America's future energy needs and I want to urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 4.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the managers Amendment and HR 4 which does not really secure America's energy future at all. This bill is a bad bill, largely because it favors energy exploration and production at the expense of the environment and conservation. As we seek to secure our country's energy future as the title of this bill refers, we must take into account the social and environmental costs of energy development and also remember that negative impacts on the environment in one part of our world can also affect other, even far-off, parts of the world.

Instead of securing America's future, HR 4 threatens the future of Alaska's and one of this country's most pristine and beloved natural resources. It cuts back on clean air standards, and opens up more public lands to mining and drilling, while relieving the oil companies, which already have registered humungous profits, of their responsibility for paying the American people what they owe for the right to drill on our lands.

Mr. Chairman, on ANWR, what those who support drilling there do not say, is that 95% of the Alaskan wilderness is available for drilling. We must preserve this fragile and important small 5% in the Wildlife Refuge and use the rest to drill to increase our oil and natural

gas supply, and still create the jobs our workers need.

Mr. Chairman, the Resources Committee, on which I serve as Ranking Member of the National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee, reported an Energy bill, two weeks ago, which represented nothing more than a "grab bag of goodies" for the big oil companies and an unprecedented assault on our country's precious natural resources.

During consideration of the bill, I supported a substitute amendment offered by the Ranking Democrat, Mr. RAHALL that provided a far better solution to the concerns over energy production in our country. This amendment would have ensured that more domestic energy is introduced into the domestic market, would relieve transmission constraints for our western States, encouraged renewable energy on federal lands, assured fairness in oil royalties, and protect our environment and our nation's monuments and parks.

The Rahall substitute would have also provided for a significant number of new jobs by facilitating the construction of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline originally authorized in 1976. This provision would enhance the delivery of 35 trillion cubic feet of natural gas already discovered in existing development fields, and the Rahall substitute would require that a project labor agreement govern construction activities on the pipeline.

Sadly, Mr. Chairman, the Rules Committee prevented Mr. RAHALL and other Democrats from offering perfecting amendments, which means that much of what the Rahall substitute would have provided, will not be allowed today.

H.R. 4, does include one aspect of the Rahall substitute which would update a nearly twenty-year-old assessment of energy importation, consumption, and alternative indigenous sources that can be used by insular areas. A new part of this reassessment will be a recommendation and a plan to protect energy transmission and distribution lines from the effects of hurricanes and typhoons. The amendment also gives the Interior Secretary the authority to fund such recommendations.

We are all aware of the tragedy and destruction a hurricane or typhoon brings once it reaches land. The majority of Americans become aware of such a storm when it heads up the eastern seaboard or makes it way inland from the Gulf of Mexico. They are awesome and dangerous. And there is not much that can be done when it is headed your way. Those of us whose districts have been in the path of such storms can attest to the devastation.

The Virgin Islands are affected by the strongest of storms, like Georges and Hugo that eventually make their way to the U.S. mainland. But we are also all too frequently a target for lesser known hurricanes that never make it out of the Caribbean Basin but still manage to inflict just as much damage as those that reach Florida.

Some of the costliest destruction during these events in the Virgin Islands and the other offshore areas is to electrical infrastructure. Island-wide outages are common in the wake of a storm because our lines are not as hardened as they could be from a storm's strength. Ideally, in any location that experiences as much hurricane activity as my district, transmission lines should be buried underground. To have the majority of our electrical lines above ground poses a great threat